Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

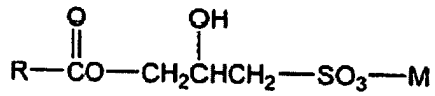
Listing of Claims:

1. (withdrawn) A method for preparing monoglyceride sulfonate, which comprises:

a step of neutralizing a fatty acid derived from an animal oil such as tallow and lard, or from a plant oil selected from a group consisting of coconut oil, lauric acid, palm oil, and palm kernel oil, with an alkali metal solution in a solvent to prepare a single or mixed alkali metal salt of a fatty acid; and

a step of reacting the salt with a compound represented by the following Chemical Formula 2:

Chemical Formula 1



Chemical Formula 2

$ClCH_2CH(OH)CH_2SO_3$-M

wherein R is a C_7 to C_{19} saturated or unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon radical, and M is sodium or potassium.

2. (withdrawn) The method for preparing monoglyceride sulfonate according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by Chemical Formula 2 is prepared by reacting epichlorohydrin with sodium sulfite, sodium bisulfite, or sodium metabisulfite.

3. (withdrawn) The method for preparing monoglyceride sulfonate according to claim 1, wherein the alkali metal salt of a fatty acid and the compound represented by Chemical Formula 2 are reacted in the reaction equivalent ratio of 1:0.05 to 1.2.

4. (withdrawn) The method for preparing monoglyceride sulfonate according to claim 1, wherein the solvent is water, or a mixture of water and a low alcohol.

5. (withdrawn) A cleansing agent for a human body prepared by the method according to claim 1.

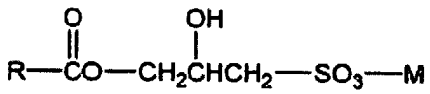
6. (withdrawn) A soft soap composition comprising:

50 to 90 parts by weight of a mixture of monoglyceride sulfonate represented by the following Chemical Formula 1, which contains more than 60 wt % of lauric acid and myristic acid, and a fatty acid soap;

1 to 12 parts by weight of a fatty acid; and

1 to 25 parts by weight of a binder (plasticizer) or an excipient:

Chemical Formula 1



wherein R is a C_7 to C_2, alkyl; and

M is sodium, potassium, triethanolamine, or ammonia.

7. (withdrawn) The soft soap composition according to claim 6, wherein the mixing ratio of the monoglyceride sulfonate and the fatty acid soap is from 1:0.3 to 0.03:1.

8. (withdrawn) The soft soap composition according to claim 6, wherein the content of the lauric acid and the myristic acid is over 70 wt %.

9. (withdrawn) The soft soap composition according to claim 6, which further comprises 1 to 25 parts by weight of a surfactant.

10. (currently amended) A method for preparing a soft soap containing salt (NaCl), which comprises:

(a) a step of neutralizing a C_8 to C_{22} saturated or unsaturated fatty acid with caustic soda to obtain a fatty acid sodium salt represented by the following Chemical Formula 3a; and

(b) a step of reacting the fatty acid sodium salt with 3-chloro-2-hydroxypropanesulfonic acid sodium salt (SCHS) represented by the following Chemical Formula 2a in a solvent, wherein the soft soap contains 2 to 15 wt % of said salt (NaCl) ~~the salt~~:

Chemical Formula 3a

RCOO Na

wherein R is a C_7 to C_{21} saturated or unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon;

Chemical Formula 2a

$ClCH_2CH(OH)CH_2SO_3Na$

wherein said 2 to 15 wt% of salt (NaCl) is formed as a product of the reaction of said fatty acid sodium salt with said 3-chloro-2-hydroxypropanesulfonic acid sodium salt (SCHS);

and wherein the fatty acid salt contains more than 60 wt% of lauric acid and myristic acid.

11. (currently amended) The method for preparing a soft soap containing salt (NaCl) according to claim 10, wherein in the step (a) the C_8 to C_{22} saturated or unsaturated fatty acid is used alone or in combination.

12. (currently amended) The method for preparing a soft soap containing salt (NaCl) according to claim 10, wherein in the step (b) reaction equivalent ratio of the fatty acid sodium salt to the 3-chloro-2-hydroxypropanesulfonic acid sodium salt is from 1:0.1 to 1:1.2.

13. (canceled)